

Message Text

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P 161611Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALSTEEL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

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USEEC/USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, US, EEC

SUBJECT: ANTIDUMPING -- NATIONAL STEEL WITHDRAWS PETITIONS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AUGUST 15 TREASURY DEPARTMENT
ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISION OF NATIONAL STEEL CORPORATION
TO WITHDRAW ITS ANTIDUMPING COMPLAINT AGAINST STEEL
PRODUCERS IN SIX EEC COUNTRIES. BEGIN TEXT. THE TREASURY
DEPARTMENT TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT NATIONAL STEEL CORPORATION
HAS WITHDRAWN ITS ANTIDUMPING PETITIONS CONCERNING COLD
ROLLED AND GALVANIZED CARBON STEEL SHEETS FROM BELGIUM,
FRANCE, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, ITALY, THE
NETHERLANDS AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE PETITIONS WERE FILED ON OCTOBER 25, 1977 AND FORMAL
ANTIDUMPING PROCEEDINGS WERE INITIATED BY THE TREASURY
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DEPARTMENT ON DECEMBER 2, 1977.

SUBSEQUENT TO THE INITIATION OF THE INVESTIGATIONS, A
STEEL "TRIGGER PRICE MECHANISM" RECOMMENDED BY AN INTER-
AGENCY TASK FORCE CHAIRED BY TREASURY UNDER SECRETARY
ANTHONY SOLOMON BECAME EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 21, 1978, TO
MONITOR IMPORTS OF STEEL PRODUCTS INCLUDING THOSE COVERED

BY THE NATIONAL PETITIONS. UNDER THE TPM, THE TREASURY

SHOULD BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY CASES OF DUMPING QUICKLY AND
TO EXPEDITE ANTIDUMPING PROCEEDINGS.

ON AUGUST 14, NATIONAL STEEL CORPORATION ADDRESSED A
LETTER TO ROBERT MUNDHEIM, GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE TREASURY,
STATING IN PART:

"WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF THE
TPM WILL CONTINUE TO REQUIRE THE ALLOCATION OF SUB-
STANTIAL TREASURY RESOURCES. WE ALSO ARE HOPEFUL THAT
WITH THE EXPIRATION OF AN INITIAL "GRACE PERIOD" THE
TPM SHOULD START TO DO THE JOB IT WAS INTENDED TO DO
AND THAT THE RESULTS OF AN EFFECTIVELY ADMINISTERED
TPM SHOULD BE SEEN SHORTLY (AND THEREAFTER ON A
CONTINUING BASIS) IN STEEL IMPORT FIGURES."

THE WITHDRAWAL IS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE REINSTITUTION
OF ANTIDUMPING PROCEEDINGS BY NATIONAL STEEL CORPORATION
ON THESE PRODUCTS.

IN A REPLY, GENERAL COUNSEL MUNDHEIM ACKNOWLEDGED THE
BASIS OF NATIONAL'S ACTION AND CONFIRMED THAT IF NATIONAL
SHOULD REFILE, "TREASURY WILL EXPEDITIOUSLY CONCLUDE
ITS DISPOSITION OF ANY RE-FILED COMPLAINTS ON THESE
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PRODUCTS, UTILIZING ALL THE RELEVANT INFORMATION CONTAINED
IN ITS FILES, INCLUDING INFORMATION OBTAINED IN UPDATING
AND IMPLEMENTING THE TRIGGER PRICE MECHANISM."

GENERAL COUNSEL MUNDHEIM ALSO STATED IN HIS LETTER,
"... THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE CAREFULLY
TO MONITOR COLD ROLLED AND GALVANIZED STEEL SHEETS UNDER
THE TRIGGER PRICE MECHANISM AND WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE
ACTION TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF THE ANTI-
DUMPING ACT WITH RESPECT TO THESE PRODUCTS." END TEXT

CHRISTOPHER

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